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NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Forests
Chief Forester's Office

ANNUAL CUT INCREASE ANNOUNCED FOR TREE FARM LICENCE 52

VICTORIA – The allowable annual cut for Tree Farm Licence 52 east of Quesnel will increase 3.8 per cent to 570,000 cubic metres, effective Jan. 1, 2003, B.C.'s deputy chief forester, Ken Baker, announced today.

"The factors I have considered in making this determination indicate that the management unit can support a small increase at this time," Baker said. "Improved information from studies conducted during the last five years shows that higher harvest levels are appropriate."

Tree Farm Licence 52, also known as the Bowron-Cottonwood tree farm licence, is held by West Fraser Mills Ltd. and consists of 258,866 hectares of Crown land in the Quesnel forest district. Much of the licence area is made up of higher-elevation spruce and subalpine fir forest. These species are less susceptible to attack by the mountain pine beetle, which is infesting much of central B.C.

West Fraser Mills provides 885 direct full-time jobs through its harvesting, reforestation and wood-processing operations in the Quesnel area, and supports another 2,655 indirect full-time jobs. The timber volume harvested from Tree Farm Licence 52 normally supplies about half of the timber needed by the West Fraser Mills sawmill/planer facility in Quesnel.

Tree Farm Licence 52 lies within the area covered by the Cariboo-Chilcotin land use plan, and the new allowable annual cut considers the decisions and practices required by the plan.

Tree farm licences are area-based tenures issued under the Forest Act and give the licensee exclusive rights to manage Crown timber for sustained yield for 25 years. The licensee manages the area under the general supervision of the Ministry of Forests and receives approval from the ministry for harvesting activities.

A copy of the deputy chief forester's allowable annual cut determination is available on the Ministry of Forests Web site at www.for.gov.bc.ca/tsb or from the following Forest Service offices:

- Cariboo forest region, 250-398-4345
- Quesnel forest district, 250-992-4400

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This decision is part of the provincial timber supply review for tree farm licences. The forest service is also completing its review of the 37 timber supply areas in the province. The timber supply review is a detailed and comprehensive process that ensures harvest rates sustain ecological values like biodiversity and wildlife, as well as maintaining timber, jobs and economic benefits.

For more information on the timber supply review, visit www.for.gov.bc.ca/tsb on the Internet.

-30-

Visit the province's Web site at http://www.gov.bc.ca/ for online information and services.

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